

FIGHTING THEM OVER.

What Our Veterans Have to Say About Their Old Campaigns.

BAND OF PIONEERS.

The Band of Pioneers—How They and Their Ancestors Served Uncle Sam.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: When the rebellion broke out there resided in China, Me., a family whose record is deserving notice, affording an instance of patriotic service and fatal results with but few parallels.

Ezekiel B. Farrington, the father, was a farmer; the mother, Mary Hamlin, was a descendant in the seventh generation of J. S. Hamlin, who came from London, England, and settled in Barnstable, Mass., in 1639. Here was a family remarkable in the annals of America for the military and naval services of its members.



REVEREND. BIRON.

Two sons of James Hamlin, the settler, Nathaniel and Joseph, served in the Revolutionary war of 1775. Several of his descendants served in the old French and Indian wars; 80 of his descendants are known to have served in the Revolution, and a greater number in the Union army and navy during the rebellion. Vice-President Hamlin and Hon. Charles S. Hamlin, the present Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, are of this family, as were Gen. Joseph F. Hamlin, Gen. Charles Hamlin, Gen. Cyrus Hamlin, Col. Samuel Hamlin, Col. Augustus C. Hamlin, Col. Solomon G. Hamlin, Col. William Hamlin, Maj. James H. Hamlin, who served in the Union army. The Farrington family at the time named consisted of five children. Five sons resided in the Union army, with results as follows: Horatio P., born 1837, private, Co. A, 6th Me., died June 1, 1864; Charles A., born 1839, Second Lieutenant, Co. I, 5th Me., died June 20, 1864; Biron H., born 1843, private, Co. C, 1st Me. Cav., died Aug. 25, 1862; Reuben M., born 1845, Sergeant, Co. B, 16th Me., died June 12, 1864; Gustavus A., born 1847, private, Co. B, 2d Me. Cav., died Oct. 30, 1864.



CHARLES. HORATIO.

Four of these brave boys, a lovely lady, her hair white as snow, living with her youngest and only surviving son, William, in China, Me.

By far the greatest number of Hamlins, Hamblins, and similar-named people in this country descend from the Barnstable settler, James Hamlin. An extensive record of his descendants has been in preparation for many years, and a portion published by Hon. H. F. Andrews, of Andover, Iowa, also a descendant, to whom all the members of this numerous family are requested to send family records. The records of soldiers of this family specially desired.

"Hamlin in the Revolution" in preparation by the same author.—H. F. ANDREWS, Andover, Me.

ON A RETREAT.

Disaster at Gettysburg, and the Fate of a Brave Officer.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: To please some of the old vets I have agreed to write of the history of the Gettysburg disaster. In the early part of June, Gen. Sturgis commanding, we were encamped in a beautiful grove of oaks at White Station, about nine miles from Memphis, trying to enjoy the comforts of camp life while we could. Numbers of our comrades, having served their time, were departing for home, thus thinning our ranks very much. Just a few days before the return of our much-beloved Lieutenant-Colonel, Gustavus Von Helmerich, from the front, where he had been a prisoner for nine months, we received orders to prepare for an expedition. Upon our Colonel's return the officers gave a banquet. The soldiers, not being forgotten, were served with refreshments, during which our Lieutenant-Colonel related his prison experience and suffering, advising each soldier not to be taken prisoner so long as he could fire a gun or strike a blow.

The following day we broke camp and took up our line of march thus: the 4th Mo., 2d N. J., 19th Pa., and 7th Ind. Cav. under Col. Warren, part of the 4th (Regular) Cav., and 7th, 10th, 12th, 2d Iowa and 10th Minn., accompanied by a well-fitted provision train. Everything progressed nicely, except there was considerable grumbling about short rations, and justly, too, knowing as we did that there was so much along in the supply-train.

We went into camp about 12 miles from Gettysburg, and very early next morning the cavalry was ordered to take the road, and the infantry to follow rapidly as possible. About 10 o'clock we came to the crossroads. Here Gen. Sturgis stopped and took up his quarters in a large white house belonging to Mrs. Price. He ordered our regiment (the 4th Mo.) to take the road to the left and hunt the enemy. A comrade and I were deployed and sent ahead as advance-guard. We soon came to a house, where I made inquiries concerning the enemy.

I was informed that Gen. Forrest had his men in the woods nearby. We had not gone over 500 yards when we found the Johnnies. I fired the first shot and returned and reported to my commander that the enemy were very near. We advanced and met the enemy. We were ordered to dismount and our horses to the rear and use our carbines, and now the battle opened.

We fought until two o'clock in the evening. The infantry coming up, we were called in and the infantry took our places. But they were a sorry looking lot of soldiers; the regiments were small, and not numbering over 150 men, and all nearly exhausted with running the double-quick so far through the heavy dust and heat.

The number of pieces used in battle was, 10th Mo., two guns, and four pieces of the 4th Mo. After retiring and having a long hunt for our horses, we were ordered to mount. After impatiently awaiting orders for a long time, we suddenly passed through the lines that our General had deserted us and we were surrounded and the battle lost.

The 7th Ill. first held the place of rear-guard, but after hours of fighting they were demoralized and stampeded. Lieut.-Col. Von Helmerich then ordered us (the 4th Mo.) to take the place, which we held by frequent charges. At one place we found the bridge across the creek broken down, and the Johnnies had outflanked us here. A line was formed, but Lieut.-Col. Von Helmerich was shot and taken as a prisoner. I attempted to rescue him, but was unable.

We tried to rally and make a stand, but it was no use. The retreat continued in confusion until Col. Cashay, with the fighting 2d N. J. Cav., came to our relief. It is a wonder that one of us escaped, as the report had left Memphis that we had left carrying black flags. The 4th Mo. and 10th Mo. saved their howitzers in this battle, while all the other guns and supply-train were deserted and left in the swamps.

When near Collinsville we were met by Gen. Smith, and were rescued. Lieut.-Col. Von Helmerich was exchanged in February, 1865, and went to Washington to draw his pay. Meeting with friends and old comrades, he attended a banquet. Rising to offer a toast, he fell dead. Thus ended the life of a brave man and a fine soldier.—HENRY DILLINGER, 4th Mo. Cav.

"Don Tobacco-Spit or Smoke Your Life."

Name of the little book just received—tells about tobacco, the wonderful, harmless, economical cure for chewing, smoking, cigar, or snuff habit. You run no physical or moral risk, for tobacco is absolutely guaranteed to cure, or money refunded. Your druggist's got it or will get it. Write for the book—mailed free. THE STERLING REMEDY CO., Box 3, Indiana Mineral Springs, Ind. Agents wanted.

WARREN DEFENDED.

Quotations from History Show Him Blameless.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I have read with deep interest the article in reference to the removal of Gen. Warren from the command of the Fifth Corps after the battle of Five Forks. Comrade S. A. Clark states that the removal was based on the fact that Gen. Grant, Meade and Sheridan, or any history of the war. Inasmuch as Grant or Meade could have known nothing of the circumstances of Warren's removal, except through Gen. Sheridan, as Warren could not tell his story, their evidence could not be called very much in question. It would hardly be considered that Sheridan's report would be unbiased.

Sheridan says: "Gen. Warren did not expect himself to get up his corps as rapidly as he might have done, and his manner gave me the impression that he wished the sun to go down before dispositions of his corps could be completed. During the attack of the Fifth Corps I again became dissatisfied with Gen. Warren. During the engagement portions of his line gave way when not exposed to a heavy fire, and simply for want of confidence on the part of his troops, which Gen. Warren did not exert himself to inspire."

Now, I wish to know what part of the lines of the Fifth Corps gave way? I have been unable to learn of any such conduct of any part of the corps, except by Gen. Sheridan's report. Certainly, not on the part of Crawford's Division, which swept across open fields, broke the woods, capturing four cannon and a large number of prisoners. The other divisions I presume are able to hoe their own row as to what they did at that time.

Swinson says: "Warren dashed forward, calling to them to follow him. Inspired by his example, the color-bearers and soldiers all along the front sprang out without more firing the men charged at the *pas de course*, capturing all that remained of the enemy. The history of the war presents no equally splendid illustration of personal gallantry. Warren led the van of rushing lines; his horse was fatally shot within a few feet of the breastworks, and he himself was in imminent peril, when a gallant officer, Col. Richardson, of the 7th Wis., sprang between him and the enemy, receiving a severe wound, but shielding from hurt the person of his beloved commander."

"The trophies of the day included many colors and guns, and about 5,000 prisoners, of which number 3,244 were taken by the Fifth Corps."

This would hardly bear out Sheridan's assertion that Warren did not exert himself.

So far as I know, the History of the Army of the Potomac is authentic, and as reliable as any other war history. I will quote what it says:

"Warren grew restive under these imputations (Sheridan's), and repeatedly demanded a court of inquiry, which was at length ordered by the President, and the court composed of officers of high rank, after having a host of witnesses before them, Sheridan among the number, who gave at great length his reasons for believing and acting as he did, made a report to the President completely exonerating Gen. Warren, stating there was no unnecessary delay, and that Warren took the usual methods of a Corps commander to prevent delay. As to the imputation that he wished 'the sun to go down before dispositions for the attack could be completed,' they say, 'his actions, as shown by the evidence, do not appear to have corresponded with such a wish as he ever entertained.'"

"And so the court went on," says Swine, "and decided against Sheridan's charges in every instance, and in the end brought in a report completely justifying Warren in his every action."

I have quoted this somewhat fully in rebuttal of Comrade Clark's assertion that the history of the war goes to show that Sheridan's action was justifiable. The fact is, Sheridan had resolved to remove him, no matter what the result of the battle would be, for he says: "I had received through Col. Babcock authority from Gen. Grant to remove him, and I have never yet regretted it." We of the rank and file know that from the time we broke camp until we arrived at Five Forks, we were about as usual, with a little more of a hurry, but it would have been about as usual for any body of troops to have made better time, considering the condition of the roads, than we did the day of the battle. And, in conclusion, I wish to say something of the removal of the Commander, that even if he had failed (which he did not), Sheridan knew that the end was near, and it was cruel and unjust, after Warren's useful and illustrious service, after the Fifth Corps had fought its last battle, to deprive him of his command.—Y. GRAY, DALTON, Co. D, 147th N. Y., Fulton, N. Y.

Wanted—Lewis Balliett, formerly of Co. F, 10th Regiment, O. V. C., whose present residence is unknown. Whoever will first inform the undersigned of his whereabouts, so I can correspond with him, will be liberally rewarded. Address S. S. Balliett, Mansfield, O.

Reduced Rates to Washington. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor will hold their Annual Meeting in Washington, D. C., July 7 to 13. We will sell tickets from all points on the line East of the Ohio River to Washington at one single fare for the round trip, July 6 to 8, inclusive, valid for return passage until July 15, and with the privilege of an additional extension until July 31 by depositing tickets with Joint Agent at Washington.

Tickets will be on sale at stations of all connecting lines. Delegates should not lose sight of the fact that all B. & O. trains run via Washington.

FIELD OF ATLANTA.

Disgrace of a Monument to Gen. James B. McPherson.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: As I went down here to Atlanta to visit the Cotton Exposition I visited the battlefield of July 22, 1864. Having been on the field in 1877, 13 years after the battle, before scarcely any changes had been made, and again in 1881 and 1890, I have been able, to a certain extent, to keep track of the positions occupied by the different commands engaged.



DEATH OF McPHERSON.

Now, after a lapse of 31 years, I thought it might be of interest to the veterans to learn how it looks. A great change has taken place since, and many of the old boys who fought on that bloody field would scarcely be able to recognize the place.

I met some here who were in the battle, who had been out to Leggett's Hill, and they said they were unable to locate the place occupied by their regiment during the battle. A few were not even able to recognize Leggett's Hill. There now stands a brick residence on or very near the spot occupied by the 2d, 1st Ill. Art. (McAllister's battery), and the 3d Ohio battery. This place is owned by a Mr. Koch, who came down here soon after the war. I am indebted to him for much valuable information as he bought the place not many years after the war, and before many changes had been made, and he was able to show me where the breastworks were located which were erected on the afternoon of the battle.

To the left of Leggett's Hill, commencing at the southeast angle of the breastworks, a northeast diagonal along the left of the Third Division, and the 3d Ohio battery, the Sixteenth Corps, and the Sixteenth Corps, nothing more remains of the breastworks except a small portion of the works occupied by the extreme left of the Third Division, and here and there a patch where the Sixteenth Corps stood.

In going the McDonough road, northwest of the line occupied by the 3d Ohio battery, portion of the line occupied by the 3d Ohio battery, and other commands of the Third Division, Seventeenth Corps, everything has been leveled down and laid out in town lots, and is occupied by residences.

Leaving the McDonough road, turning almost due north, in the direction of the Fifteenth Corps, through a strip of timber where the 17th Wis. stood, the breastworks are in a fair state of preservation. Along the line of the Fifteenth Corps there is here and there a patch left, just barely enough to trace the line of battle.

Of the rebel breastworks considerable is left at different places. To the right of the line of the Fifteenth Corps, there is a ravine in front of the left of the Third Division and in front of the Sixteenth Corps, to the left of Leggett's Hill. It will be but a few years till all trace of this famous battlefield will be gone.

By whom such a tragedy is being enacted, I found only one bullet, but the nature of the case is a stock of relics on hand, and are disposing of them at a fair price. I was surprised to find nailed high up to a pine tree where Gen. McPherson fell, a sign reading, "Gen. John B. McPherson, killed July 22, '64." How by such a blunder was made I cannot understand, but the sign is a relic that anyone who was in the least familiar with the history of the late war and our Generals, especially one so prominent as our beloved McPherson, would know that it was James B., and not John B.

The monument erected where Gen. McPherson fell is a disgrace to the Government. It is a condemned cannon inclosed by a cast-iron rail-fence about the size of a hen-coop. That is all that marks the sacred spot where the gallant McPherson gave up his precious life for the Nation.

It seems strange that Shiloh battlefield, where the trophies of the day should be away from any town or railroad, should be preserved as a National park, and Leggett's Hill and McPherson be neglected and forgotten; especially when one considers its nearness to Atlanta, a city of 100,000, and which is destined at no far distant day to become the capital of the South.—JOHN T. WISMAN, Battery D, 1st Ill. Art. (McAllister's), 615 North Thirteenth street, Lincoln, Neb.

A CREAD BASTILE.

Additional Contribution to the Story of the Vain Attempt at Escape from Salisbury.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I have read with much interest the graphic account of Comrade H. Mann's experience in Libby and Salisbury (N. C.) prisons. I, with a number of our 24th Battalion 5th N. Y. H. A. boys, unfortunately captured at Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, 1864, was also incarcerated in Libby and Salisbury bastilles.

All of our boys took part in trying to make our escape out of the inhuman death-trap, on Nov. 25, 1864. Comrade Wm. Perin, Co. E, 24th Battalion, who lived in Brooklyn, N. Y., was one of the committee to command our New York boys when the right time to strike for liberty had come.

It was reported that on Nov. 25 the regiment doing guard duty at this prison was to leave for the front, and our commander, Wm. Perin, reported to the boys that if it turned out to be true, then at the evening guard-mount, and at the sound of "Strike for liberty!" we were to forthwith rush to the big gate, and thus make our escape.

Well, with throbbing hearts we all awaited the day. Sure enough, in the morning an old man's regiment was put on guard, and the other was marched to the depot. They had not been gone very long when a train came rattling by and stopped at the depot, and was soon off again; therefore our poor emaciated comrades naturally supposed that the regiment had left. They were so elated at the thought that they could not wait until evening guard-mount, but forthwith rushed toward the big gate. But what could they do, as the gate was securely bolted?

Our boys had overpowered the new guards, and were about to rush to the big gate with a battering ram, which they had nearly completed, when the regiment, which we all supposed had left, came back double-quick, and began to fire into our midst. Then they came in to see how many blue-bellied rebels they had killed. They called us—they had killed them for what? Now I looked and wept at our poor comrades as they were lying huddled together in Death's embrace. Their number appeared to me to be over 300. It was a sickening sight.

MISSOURI ROMANCE.

Comrades Renew a Friendship of Peculiar Significance.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: Now and then two old comrades who fought side by side in the Union army, and who separated soon after the war, chance to meet, and such meetings are usually like calling up the dead.

John Jenkins, of Gates, Mo., and W. S. Riggs, of Springfield, Ark., who went through many hardships and in a measure shared each other's joys and sorrows, gains and losses, victories and defeats during the four years of civil war, and who had neither seen nor heard of one another during the past 30 years, were again brought together by letter a short while ago. Riggs accidentally heard that Jenkins was still living, and at once wrote him. But Jenkins had saved the life of Riggs at one time during the rebellion, and while both were on duty, and because of this fact the letter from the one to the other brought up reminiscences that had long been forgotten.

It was told that Riggs was content, and enjoys the distinction of having been one of the youngest in the army. Winfield Scott Riggs, now of Springfield, Ark., came to Springfield in 1864 and was recommended to Gen. John B. Sanborn by John Jenkins and J. B. Hiccock, or "Wild Bill," as he was well and familiarly known in this section of the country. Riggs was rather small for his age, as he only weighed 90 pounds, and his hair hung down on his shoulders. He was sent to the Lyon House, where he roomed with Wild Bill.

Riggs was known as "Scott Riggs," the "Long Opportunity," and was one of the most daring men in the army. So much so, in fact, that he was detailed to make a trip alone to Forsythe, Yellville, Batesville, West Plains and Hartsville for the purpose of ascertaining the movements of Gen. Price's army, and learned that he was coming into Missouri by way of Pilot Knob, St. Louis, Wash. He also called attention to statements in these columns verifying his own by Comrades Gilbert Thompson, topographer, Washington, D. C.; Gen. Thomas F. McCoy, 107th Pa.; Maj. Mink, Battery H, 1st N. Y. Art., and Augustus Buell ("The Cannonier"), who were with him at the battle of Antietam.

Comrade Clark quotes Gen. Meade and Grant's Memoirs. Gen. Meade's orders to Gen. Bartlett on the night of March 31 practically confirm my statement that we were not to move to assist Sheridan until relieved by the Second Corps. As soon as the enemy had been driven behind the White Oak road, Bartlett about dark was pushed out to our left three miles in the direction of Five Forks. Maj. Cope was with him. About 10 o'clock at night Bartlett found that he was in the rear of Murchfield's Brigade of Cavalry, who at the time

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"Our regiment on May 10, with some other troops was ordered to Corinth, Miss. We saw the 37th no more. They fought their way towards the Gulf, and Oct. 7, 1862, two days after Vicksburg, they went into Winter quarters at Duval's Bluff. The mistake does not amount to much, but I couldn't forego the privilege of telling Gen. Howard he is mistaken. He did not allow that when he was in command of the Fourth Corps."

Scattering. William Chapman, 1014 South Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal., writes: "It is not generally known that in California there is a large amount of Government land. The eyes of nearly all people visiting southern California are centered about Los Angeles, overlooking the fact that not far away are thousands of acres of rich, level land open to location as homesteads and other claims. The elevation is high, a curative spot for asthma, bronchitis, consumption, and kindred diseases; also productive of the finest apples grown in the State. Two railroads run across the valley, and two more under construction. This is an inviting place for the old soldier, being but a short ride from the Soldiers' Home at Santa Monica." [The editor advises the comrade to have some descriptive circulars printed, as he will receive more letters than he can send.]

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PICKET SHOTS.

From Alert Comrades All Along the Line.

The Luka Fight. Z. Harlan, Sergeant, Co. H, 39th Ohio, Eureka, Kan., writes relative to L. W. Bloom's communication in the issue of March 5 on Luka: "The writer indulges quite freely in criticisms, wants those who make careless statements 'called down,' and then goes into the business of making careless statements himself."

"I desire to set him right as to Comrade Shigley's statement that 'the 45th Ind. fell in line with the 5th Iowa and the 11th Ohio batteries.' Now, as the 5th Iowa Ind. was engaged at Luka, and as the 11th Ohio battery it is quite clear that Comrade Shigley so intended to express it. The 5th Iowa and the 11th Ohio battery suffered severely in the Luka battle. I know this, for I wasn't many yards from the positions they occupied. The Ohio Brigade was near by."

"But, as to Comrade Bloom's statement, the one that touches me in a tender spot is: 'The 1st Regulars should be credited with that (Robinet's) defense.' With all due respect to Comrade Bloom, I am compelled to say that nothing could be further from the truth than this statement. It was the Ohio Brigade (27th, 38th, 43rd and 63d Ohio) aided by about 200 of the 11th Mo., that successfully defended Robinet against the charging Texans."

Five Forks.

Dwight Warren, Three Oaks, Mich., says in the course of a lengthy discussion as to "The Lost Opportunity" and as to Gen. Warren, answering Comrade Clark, that he has statements condemnatory of the comrade's attack by Comrades Alfred Quinn, Canton, O.; Edward R. Covell, 59th N. Y. Provisional, R. I.; A. F. Andrews, 186th N. Y., Ponton, Mich.; R. E. McBride, 190th Pa., Manhattan, Kan.; Robert Myers, 1st Md., Antietam, Wash. He also called attention to statements in these columns verifying his own by Comrades Gilbert Thompson, topographer, Washington, D. C.; Gen. Thomas F. McCoy, 107th Pa.; Maj. Mink, Battery H, 1st N. Y. Art., and Augustus Buell ("The Cannonier"), who were with him at the battle of Antietam.

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